

# Stroud Urban District Council

## SANITARY AUTHORITY.

---

### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1896.

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STROUD URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

For the twenty-third time I have to Report on the Sanitary state of the District.

The past Year began unfavourably owing to an outbreak of Small Pox, on which I made a special Report at the time.

Attached are extracts from my Register of Small Pox Cases giving details. Fortunately no other case arose from this one.

The son of Cox who nursed, and afterwards assisted in disinfection and burial, did not take the disease. He had been Re-vaccinated nine years before and had three good foveated marks.

As the subject of Small Pox has been very much to the front, it may be of interest to the Council to know that during the past twenty-three years there have been ten outbreaks, varying from one case up to twenty-three, a total of fifty-two cases and seven deaths, a rate of 13·4 per cent. of total cases.

#### HISTORY OF CASE.

William Cox, 75 years of age, had been visiting at Gloucester the week previous to being taken ill on January 27th at a Lodging House.

After the attempt to remove him to Oakridge he was brought back to the Lodgings, and died on February 2nd.

He had been Vaccinated in infancy, and had one very indistinct mark. The disease assumed the confluent form.

The Repair and Removal of the Hospital Marquee to Stancombe, Bisley, the site selected, and in my opinion well suited for the purpose, is about four miles from Stroud, and was ready just in time for the reception of Cases. Had we been possessed of such a place earlier it would have been advantageous.

Zymotic Diseases have not been very prevalent, though an increase on those of last year.

Under the "Housing of the Working Classes Act," I made, with the Inspector, a general inspection of the Town, and found only a few places that required structural improvements.

Unsanitary states are generally the result of dirty habits, neglect or indifference, or perhaps the ignorance of the inhabitants, as stated in my Report to the Council.

The Bakehouses have been inspected, and one case reported of a person employed under the prescribed age, and a few improvements were required.

Other matters will be noticed under the different headings to which they belong.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population at the end of the year was about 10,191.

During the year 201 Births have been registered—117 Males, 84 Females ; a Birth Rate of 18·8 per 1000 of Population.

122 Deaths were recorded—73 males, 49 Females, including 8 in the Workhouse—4 Males, 4 Females, and 13 in the Hospital—9 Males, 4 Females ; a Death Rate of 11·9 per 1000 living.

For the Quarters of the year the Rates have been :—

First Quarter	...	...	...	...	Rate per 1000	13·8
Second „	...	...	...	...	„ „	11·0
Third „	...	...	...	...	„ „	8·6
Fourth „	...	...	...	...	„ „	14·4

Deducting 7 Deaths not belonging to the District, the corrected Rate will be 11·2 per 1000 living.

CAUSES OF THE SEVEN DEATHS.

In Workhouse, Phthisis, from Astley, Lancashire	...	...	...	1
On road to Hospital, Train Accident, from Swindon	...	...	...	1
In Hospital, Suicide (shot himself), from Birmingham	...	...	...	1
In Hospital, Train Accident, from Swindon	...	...	...	1
In Hospital, Horse Running Away, from Frampton-on-Severn...	...	...	...	1
In Hospital, Scald, from Bromsgrove	...	...	...	1
In Hospital, Obstruction, from Cirencester	...	...	...	1

For the 33 large Towns the Birth and Death Rates were 30·7 and 18·9 per 1000 living.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

18 Infants died under one year of age, a Rate of 89·5 per 1000 of Births.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Bronehitis	..	...	...	8	Marasmus	...	...	...	2
Injuries	...	...	...	1	Convulsions	...	...	...	1
Natural Causes	...	...	...	1	Catarrh	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1	Unknown	...	...	...	1
Eczema	...	...	...	1	Peritonitis	...	...	...	1
									18

In the 32 Provincial Towns the Rate was 168 per 1000 Births.

Forty-three Persons died over 60 years of age ; a Rate of 35·2 per cent. of Deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Small Pox	...	...	...	1	Paralysis	...	...	...	6
Bronehitis	...	...	...	7	Kidney	...	...	...	1
Heart	...	...	...	5	Syneope	...	...	...	1
Injuries	...	...	...	3	Bright's Disease	...	...	...	1
Uncertified	...	...	...	3	Uleer	...	...	...	1
Caneer	...	...	...	2	Pyæmia	...	...	...	1
Natural Causes	...	...	...	2	Apoplexy	...	...	...	2
Age	...	...	...	7					43

TABLE OF DEATHS FROM

Phthisis	...	...	...	16	Rate per 1000 living	1·56
Bronehitis	...	...	...	18	„ „ „	1·76
Heart Disease	...	...	...	11	„ „ „	1·08
Cancer	...	...	...	8	„ „ „	·78

Four Uncertified Deaths were recorded, a Rate of 3·27 per cent. of deaths.

## STATED CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Probably Heart Disease, ages 25 and 80 years ... ..	2
Probably Dropsy, age 71 years ... ..	1
Syneope, Cirrhosis of Liver, Fatty Degeneration of Heart and Granular Kidneys, Subsequent Dropsy, age 64 years ... ..	1

Sixteen cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were reported, a Rate of 1·5 per 1000 of Population. The Rate for large Towns was 2·3 per 1000.

## SMALL POX.

One Case, one Death, at Lodging House, Tower Hill.

## SCARLET FEVER.

Four Cases were notified in different parts of the District. There was no Death.

## ERYSIPELAS.

Three Cases of Idiopathic character.

## TYPHOID.

There were four Cases—one at Tower Hill, one at Chapel Street, one at Conygre, Cemetery Road, and one at Workhouse.

Two, probable cause defective drains; one, probable first cause a chill, after exposure to cold, followed by Typhoid symptoms and Pneumonia; one in Workhouse, a Tramp from Tetbury. No Death.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Three Cases—one at Tower Hill, one at Bowbridge, one at Belmont Terrace or Road. Probably caused by bad drains. Two were supplied by Town water.

## PUERPERAL FEVER.

One Case, a mild attack.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE ZYMOTICS.

Two Deaths took place—one Whooping Cough, one Measles. Rate, ·09 per 1000 living.

I brought before the Council the Local Government Board Officer's Book recommending the Notification of Measles.

On looking back through my papers I find that during the past six years we have had but one Outbreak requiring the closing of Schools, and two Deaths have taken place.

All the recommendations of Dr. Thompson have been carried out for years past, except formal Notification.

## ISOLATION.

All Masters and Mistresses inform me on the occurrence of Cases. They are visited and isolated at home, and others of the family are excluded from School. Advice is given by me, and closure for two weeks if necessary.

The Tables attached give details of Births and Deaths and Infectious Cases.

## INQUESTS.

Eighteen were held, including six in the Hospital:—

Accidentally Smothered while in bed with Parents, age 5 weeks ... ..	1
Suicides—1 Hanging, 1 Train, 1 in Hospital, shot himself, from Birmingham ...	3
Killed by Train—1 died on road to Hospital and 1 in Hospital, both from Swindon	2
Scald—in Hospital, age 4 years, from Bromsgrove ... ..	1
Pneumonia—result of fall ... ..	1
In Hospital—Horse running away, from Frampton-on-Severn ... ..	1
In Hospital—1 burn, 64 years of age, 1 Fall, 71 years of age ... ..	2
Accidentally Killed—his neck broken by galvanized roofing falling on him ...	1
Unknown—newly born, found in Canal ... ..	1
Natural Causes ... ..	5



## THE WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of the Town remains of its usual good quality, and considering the exceptionally dry season, plentiful.

I have chemically tested three samples of water supplied by the Inspector and reported thereon.

I inspected the Sewage Works by request of the Chairman, and reported that the working was going on as well as could be expected with the present limited area for filtration.

In concluding this Report I may add that this has been an exceptional year, having had no Epidemic form of Disease, a low Infantile Death Rate, and a good general Sanitary State.

Mr. Cowle has again supplied me with the Rainfall for the year 1896.

## RAINFALL FOR PARK ROAD, STROUD.

January	... ..	·68 inches	July	... ..	·62 inches
February	... ..	·28 "	August	... ..	2·44 "
March	... ..	2·68 "	September	... ..	5·41 "
April	... ..	1·07 "	October	... ..	4·14 "
May	... ..	·38 "	November	... ..	1·00 "
June	... ..	2·63 "	December	... ..	3·48 "

Total Rainfall—24·76 inches. About  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches below average.

## ABSTRACT OF VISITS AND CASES FROM MEDICAL OFFICER'S JOURNAL.

Cases of Small Pox	... ..	1
„ Diphtheria	... ..	3
„ Typhoid	... ..	4
„ Scarlet Fever	... ..	4
„ Puerperal Fever	... ..	1
„ Erysipelas	... ..	3
Reports to Local Government Board	... ..	2
Consultation with Coroner	... ..	1
Reports on Small Pox to Local Government Board	... ..	2
Visits to Cox junior, <i>re</i> Work and Disinfection	... ..	3
Inspection of Bakehouses	... ..	23
Samples of Water Examined	... ..	3
Visit and Certificate <i>re</i> Pig Nuisance	... ..	2
Cases N.S.P.C.C.	... ..	2
Bendall's supposed Contagion from Small Pox (visit)	... ..	1
Letter to Medical Attendant	... ..	1
Reports to Board	... ..	4
Nuisance, collection of Bones, &c. (destroyed)	... ..	2
Unwholesome Fish (destroyed)	... ..	1
Seized—Unwholesome Meat	... ..	1
Inspection of Stables	... ..	1
Inspection of Houses, "Working Classes Act"	... ..	104
Visits to Schools	... ..	6
„ Sewage Works	... ..	2
Report to Chairman...	... ..	1
Attended Urban District Council	... ..	8
„ Magistrates <i>re</i> Smith's Court	... ..	1
Certificates	... ..	1
Sanitary Committees	... ..	6
Visits, Certificates—Water at Woodlands...	... ..	2
„ Dairies and Cowsheds	... ..	19
Correspondence respecting the disposal of Rags	... ..	2

217

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS PARTRIDGE, M.O.H

JANUARY 30TH, 1897

**(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Stroud Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DIS- TINOUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
STROUD .. ..	101	18	7	1	8	38	29	Under 5	1	1		9		1	13	25
								5 upwards	1		15	9	9	5	37	76
WORKHOUSE ..	8		1			3	4	Under 5							1	1
								5 upwards			1				6	7
HOSPITAL ..	13		1	2	3	5	2	Under 5						1		1
								5 upwards					2	5	5	12
TOTALS ..	122	18	9	3	11	46	35	Under 5	1	1		9		2	14	27
								5 upwards	1		16	9	11	10	48	95
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	7		1		3	3		Under 5						1		1
								5 upwards			1			4	1	6

**(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1896, in the Stroud Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	POPULA- TION AT ALL AGES	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.						TOTAL.
	Census, 1891.			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	
STROUD .. ..	9818	201	Under 5							
			5 upwards	1	4	3	3	1	3	15
WORKHOUSE ..			Under 5							
			5 upwards				1			1
TOTALS .. ..	9818	201	Under 5							
			5 upwards	1	4	3	4	1	3	16

Library of the British Medical Association,  
429, Strand,  
London, W.C.